

Subject: A trip to Lviv, Ukrainian S.S.R. by a French ^{female} Student
of Ukrainian descent. *age ca. 22*

Date: 20 September 1966.

1. Student went to Lvov with a group of tourists by way of "Transtous" of 49 Avenue de L'Opera, Paris, 2e. The itinerary included Metz, Saarbruechen, Mannheim, Frankfurt, Berlin, Poznan, Cracow, Peremyshl, Lviv. The group consisted of about twenty people, most of them old folks going back to visit their relatives and friends. They departed on 28 July, 1966. In Berlin their papers were checked. On the Polish border, the same including a light check of the baggage. In Mostysk, the border officers checked if all the money had been declared, but opened only a few bags. They were not allowed to bring in any fruits. They either had to surrender them to the officers or consume them on the spot.

2. Arrived in Lviv on Sunday 31 July around 18 hrs. They were greeted by flowers and there ensued a great reunion scene where brother, sister, mother or father were reunited with their loved ones. Subject remembered that one of their guides (a Russian), directed this comment to the Lvovians: "With the visitors from France you speak Ukrainian fluently and to me you say that you can't speak a word." After this they boarded the Inturist buses and were driven to their hotels.

3. Monday August 1st. Touring city with people from the group and their Lvivian friends and relatives. Visited the High Castle. S. had a chance to strike up a conversation with a lady architect. She met this lady through the members of the group. She was very pleasant looking. She told S. that higher

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education is not free as everyone is lead to believe. Whoever is capable of a given sum, can easily attend the University. She said that this is a secret that cannot be divulged to the tourists.

When S. asked her about the arrests of writers and intellectuals, she answered that they stopped being persecuted and were free to write as they wished. When S. asked about the arrests of Dzyuba and Svitlychnyy, in particular, she said that she had heard about it, but did not know anything definite. She did not willingly discuss this question. She seemed not to be too well acquainted with this question.

4. Tuesday, August 2nd. During breakfast their guide informed them that a special pass was required in order to visit the countryside. S. spent the day with her family. Her grandfather and grandmother are farmers. Grandpa has already retired and receives a pension of 12 rubles a month. Grandma still works in the kolhosp where she is still paid annually in kind. They have an orchard, a cow, and some chickens. Grandpa often goes to Lviv to sell his apples. The village is populated mostly by Ukrainians. Her uncle works in Lviv in a metallurgical factory earning 50 rubles a month. Her aunt is a midwife and has to work at spare jobs in order to subsidize her budget. No one from the family of S. was ever sent to Siberia. Their children are still young. They consider themselves Ukrainians but adjust themselves to the regime so as not to lose their jobs.

The situation in the kolhosp has not changed much. Annual income amounts to 100 rubles and a few kilograms of grain. The standard of living has increased somewhat. The peasants receive a more substantial amount of bread and of better quality too. Usually the director of the kolhosp is a Russian, sometimes a Ukrainian. In the villages education is available to all. In the first two grades they teach only in Russian, from the third grade on in Ukrainian.

After lunch they went for a bit of touring. In the evening S. went to see the Carpatho-Ukrainian Chorus. The first part was all folklore; the ~~xxxx~~ second propaganda - songs about Lenin, etc.

5. Wednesday, August 3rd. S. went shopping in the morning and after lunch she went to the village to visit her grandpa who lives 2 klm from Komarno, or about 35 klm from Lviv. She went there illegally for she had not as yet received an authorized pass. She spent 2 hours there. The village consists of low, one room houses, the roads are dilapidated, ~~and~~ people speak in Ukrainian.

6. Thursday, August 4th. In the morning S. visited the museum - historical and ethnographical. She could not find the woman she was told about. The lady was not there at the time.

In the afternoon S. wanted to visit the University. After beseeching the guard for a long time, she was finally allowed to enter but only for five minutes. The guard told her that he could not let her go in because there were tests going on at the time.

The husband of S's cousin showed her some typewritten articles about the arrests of Dzyuba and Svitlychnyy. This was just before her departure and she had no time to read them all. She noticed that there were also articles from some newspapers. He talked freely with her about the arrests. When S. asked if she could borrow the material overnight and return it to him in the morning, he said that he would not be able to see her the next morning and consequently could not let her have the articles.

He also told S. about the demonstration staged by the University of Lviv students protesting the arrests of Ukrainian intellectuals, but did not refer to specifics. There was also

a demonstration for the use of the Ukrainian language at Lviv university. The students and University lecturers who staged this demonstration were sent to Siberia. S. does not know how many of them there was. She also learned that a new course will be introduced into the University curriculum - atheism.

7. Friday, August 8. Departure at x 9. On her return trip there was a check at Mostyska which proved to be more stringent than the check on arrival. They were especially checkin if the group were not smuggling out gold or documents.